

Markham Meadows Cpgd. LLC
9 Markham Road
East Hampton, CT 06424

2/19/2022

Dear Chairman Cohen, Chairman Gresko
and distinguished members of the Environment Committee,

I am writing in support of House Bill No. 5145 ~ "An Act
Concerning the use of Portable Wastewater Containers."

As the owner of Markham Meadows Cpgd. In East Hampton I
have a vested interest in allowing waste water totes to be used in
private campgrounds.

First and foremost, they are SAFE. My health officials told me
the committee is concerned the totes would leak during the
traverse to and from a camper's site. NOT TRUE. The tote
manufacturers would be happy to supply you with the design of
these devices as evidence that they are well sealed. The tops
screw securely shut and the wheels allow for easy mobility.
They are designed to be tipped (when emptying) and not allow
for spillage.

Secondarily, you are placing an unfair financial burden on
campground owners and campers themselves. Few owners have
enough staff to evacuate septic tanks as often as some may
require. My staff goes out weekly. However, if a camping
family has several children, their 40-gallon waste water tank
needs to be emptied more often than that. They happily use
their totes. I charge \$15 per evacuation. Not every family can
afford the extra \$60 a month.

Lastly, there is NO GOOD explanation as to why state facilities
can use totes and private parks cannot.

Please bring parity to our private campgrounds that pay a great
deal in taxes and bring in tremendous revenue to the state of
Connecticut.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa H. Engel
Owner, Markham Meadows Cpgd. LLC
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